

Message Text

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INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0212

SECDEF FOR OSD - COLONEL KERSEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GB

SUBJ: CHANGES IN GOG ARMED FORCES COMMAND

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN SERIES OF CHANGES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, FORMER GOG ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF NAZAIRE BOULINGUI HAS BEEN GIVEN FOURTH STAR AND NAMED TO NEWLY-CREATED POST OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL FOR SECUGAPCES. FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF DANIEL BA OUMAR REPLACES BOULINGUI AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, RETAINING TWO-STAR RANK, AND FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF JEAN-MARIE DJOUE-DABANY, PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, MOVES UP TO CHIEF OF STAFF. COMMANDANT FABIEN N'DOUTOUME (OR N'TOUTOUME), FORMERLY COMMANDER OF SECOND MILITARY REGION (OYEM), BECOMES NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

2. ACCORDING TO DECREE, INSPECTOR-GENERAL FOR SECURITY FORCES WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE (PRESIDENT BONGO), AND WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF ARMED FORCES, GENDARMERIE, ANECTOR-GENERAL WILL BE PROVIDED BY PRESIDENT. END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

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3. COMMENT: AGING BOULINGUI HAS BEEN RELEGATED INCREASING-

LY TO CEREMONIAL ROLE IN RECENT MONTHS, WITH BA OUMAR EXERCISING EFFECTIVE COMMAND (LATTER CHAIRED MEETINGS WITH VISITING DOD SURVEY TEAM). CREATION OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL POST FOR BOULINGUI AND AWARDING OF HIS FOURTH STAR OFFERS GENTLE WAY OF REMOVING HIM FROM COMMAND STRUCTURE BY KICK-ING HIM UPSTAIRS, TECHNIQUE COMMONLY EMPLOYED ON CIVILIAN SIDE OF GOG WHERE OUSTED MINISTERS BECOME "PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS" WITHOUT SPECIFIC PORTFOLIOS. THUS, NEW POSITION SEEMS UNLIKELY TO BE ANYTHING MORE THAN SINECURE. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, PRESIDENTIAL GUARD NOT INCLUDED IN LIST OF SECURITY FORCES UNDER JURISDICTION OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL EVEN THOUGH POST WILL PRESUMABLY BE POWERLESS, OFFERING FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY BONGO TO KEEPING GUARD TOTALLY INDEPENDENT OF OTHER SECURITY FORCES. STEIGMAN

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